

OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK

AUGUSTA, MAINE

October 25, 2002

The Mayor has called a special City Council meeting to be held Monday, October 28, 2002 at 6:30 p.m., Cony High School Auditorium.

PUBLIC HEARING - New Cony High School

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ITEMS LISTED ON THE AGENDA.

NEW BUSINESS

PART 1 - ORDERS

299 Manager

WHEREAS, Maine relies too heavily on the property tax to pay for kindergarten through Grade 12 education; and

WHEREAS, the State's tax structure is too "volatile", resulting in an unpredictability of state tax revenues that significantly disrupts both state and local efforts to budget governmental resources; and

WHEREAS, the alignment of tax burden among the property tax, sales tax and income taxes is seriously out of balance; and

WHEREAS, Maine's overall tax burden is a matter of great concern to residents and businesses; and

WHEREAS, Maine's tax structure should be changed to reduce the State's reliance on the local property tax to fund K-12 education and special education costs, reduce the volatility of Maine's tax code, more equitably re-align the tax burden among the State's three major tax revenue sources, and allow the Legislature to develop a plan to reduce Maine's overall tax burden; and

WHEREAS, municipalities have tried for many years to get the Legislature to engage in tax reform to address Maine's flawed tax code and the Legislature has rejected these efforts and failed to enact meaningful tax reform; and

WHEREAS, we believe it is time to directly provide the citizens of Maine the opportunity to vote on proposed changes to Maine's tax structure that will reduce property taxes statewide:

NEW BUSINESS (Con't)

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NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the City of Augusta City Council hereby supports the proposed tax reform initiative of the Maine Municipal Association entitled, "An Act to Reduce Local Property Taxes Statewide".

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl A. Frith
City Clerk